CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

7th Annual Chicago TI Faire
is right around the corner
Make your plans today. 11-4.

OcT 1989
EDITOR: Bob Demeter

Happy Halloween

MEETING Oct. 7th - - -

This month's meeting will be Saturday Oct 7th. at the AMERICAN LEGION HALL in Hillside. Meeting time: 1-3 pm

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CALL THE BBS AT 312 862-0182 Area code 708 starting in Nov.
HOT LINE # 312 869-4304 Area code 708 starting in Nov.

The Ti Faire Mixer and Dinner.

The Faire mixer will began on Friday November 3rd 1989 at 8:00. Admission to the mixer will be $5.00. There will be a cash bar and hors d' ouerves will be served along with great conversation. Come and meet all your friends. Come and make some new friends. Meet the vendors and get a clue to all the new items that will be put on sale the next day.

The dinner will be held on November the 4th at 7:00. The price of dinner is $15.00. The dinner menu will be-Cream of Broccoli Soup, Mixed Green Salad w/choice of dressing. Beef Brochette in Burgundy Sauce with Green Beans Almondine and Rice Pilaf will be the main meal, and for dessert we have Cheesecake. There will also be Rolls and butter and Coffee, Tea, and Milk. For people that are vegetarian there is a special menu available.

If anyone would like to order tickets for either the mixer or the dinner please fill out the order form below and make your check out to the Chicago Ti User Group and Mail it and the form to Christime Chambers 7348 S. Washtenew, Chicago Il. 60629. You can make reservations by phone by calling Christine Chambers at 312-476-3452. ALL RESERVATION MUST BE MADE BY OCT.27TH. WE HAVE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF DINNER TICKETS.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

PHONE_____

NUMBER OF MIXER TICKETS @ $5.00_____

NUMBER OF DINNER TICKETS @ $15.00_____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF OWED $_____

TI FAIRE UPDATE

Dear Ti members and friends there is only about a month left before the Faire and everything is going great. Things are starting to fall into place and the excitement is starting to build. As always I'm impressed with all the new things that are going to be at our show this year, for a "dead" computer it's just amazing. Everyone is looking forward to seeing their old friends again. To the people that come every year let me say I can't wait to see you s again and to those who haven't attended the Ti Faire yet; let me say that your are missing a great deal of fun. Don't miss the fun again this year. Make your reservation now before all the rooms are booked and all the tickets are sold. PLEASE THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO STAY AT THE HOTEL, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW. If you don't make you reservations before the third week in October you may miss out on the discount that we worked so hard to get for you.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 312-259-5000. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Ti Faire to assure special room location.
For those who are interested there are only 8 vendor booths left. If there are any vendors that want a booth you have to contact me right away. Call Sandy Bartels at 312-859-3850

Please all volunteers sign up now we need you.

SEE EVERYONE AT THE FAIRE-SANDY BARTEL

Vendors for the 1989 Ti Faire

Hunter Electronics
C and G Drives
Rave 99
Will County Users Group
Beery Miller
Myarc
L.L. Connor
Texaments
Milwaukee Users Group
Illinois Micro
Micropendium
Genial Computerware
Comprodine
Competition Computer
Compuserve
Fox Valley Users Group
H and H Distributors
Bud Mills
Midwest Engineers
Data Systems
CBug
Asgarde Software

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

With the September meeting, we resumed our 1989 regular meetings. It was held in the Hillside American Legion Hall. Unfortunately, we will be unable to meet there after our January meeting (I will give you the details on this at a later date.) For this reason, we are searching for a new home for our meetings. I request that all Chicago area members search their minds and their neighborhoods for a centrally located, cheap (free, if possible) place where we can continue to meet. I already have a lead on one place, but I would like to have as many as possible for the executive board to choose from. If you have any ideas, please share them with us.

We are only one month away from our seventh, annual, all TI Chicago Faire. Already, it is clear that this one should be as exciting all of the other Faires which will have preceeded it. Special thanks goes out to Sandy (and Jon) Bartels for all of her fine work and sacrifices for our Faire. We started out with 54 empty tables, and, at the writing of this article, only <u>eight</u> are remaining. I am both pleased and encouraged with the results which she has achieved.

It is important for our community to support the Chicago Faire and all TI Faires; they may be considered as a barometer of the condition of the community. The continued success of the Chicago Faires has certainly provided some of the necessary encouragement for many of our most resourceful programmers and designers to continue to keep faith in "The Dream." Many vendors have discontinued their support of our community. Still, others joined us while many "die-hards" remain steadfast in their committment to the TI Dream. It is clear that we must continue to support those vendors and third-party suppliers who have chosen to continue to support us. By supporting them, we keep our community viable, and we also provide ourselves with the hardware and the software tools necessary for us to do the useful work which our machines are capable of.

This year, you may notice that we will have some new faces among our vendors at our Faire. Some will be carrying products which can be used by owners of <u>any</u> computer. There will be more disk drives (3-1/2 and 5-1/4 inch sizes), hard drives, chips, monitors, modems, joy sticks, surge protectors, switch boxes, and printers available than ever before. We are also attempting to get a vendor in who sells computer funiture. I feel that we owe it to our members to provide them with a <u>full</u> selection of computer related accessories. I want for our Faire to make it unnecessary for any of our members to have to go to any stores or other computer shows to find those things which they may find necessary to do computer related work. At the same time, we

will continue to provide our members with access to the most current software and hardware that is specifically for both the 4A and the 9640 home computers. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR USERS' GROUP BY SUPPORTING THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CHICAGO TI FAIRE. Only by supporting your users' group can you be assured that we will be around to support you!!!

Speaking of third-party suppliers, I recently received a form letter from Texas Instruments, Inc. The letter appears to have been sent out to all known TI users' group, and they were requesting updated contact information. In the body of the letter was the following paragraph: "Please advise members that Texas Instruments has not sold home computer products since April 1, 1984. Referals for sales should be made to third-party suppliers such as Triton (800/227-6900) and Tenex (800/348-2778) and the companies on the enclosed list." The enclosed list included the following companies: Alboes Computer/Supplies, Pilgrim's Pride, Joy Electronics, Learn-A-Bit About Computers, and our own (Roy) Hunter Electronics. The reason for the "our own" phrase is that Roy Hunter has been both a member of the Chicago TI Users' Group, and a vendor at virtually every meeting that I have ever attended. In other words, he is a local vendor/supplier who has attended every Faire we have ever given, and he has supplied hardware, software, and advice to many TI people in the Chicago vicinity. It is interesting that Texas Instruments has acknowledged vendor/suppliers such as Roy. (May they all continue to support our community forever!!!)

The hot-line has been especially active this last month. I have been trying to answer questions about the Faire, line up potential sales of used equipment, and answer problems relating to the Geneve or the 4A. Incidentally, there has been only one complaint/problem in the last month, but it was taken care of three days after the call was made. This is my very last request for a problem to solve or a complaint to address. If I don't get one soon, I just don't know what I'm going to do!!!

I deeply regret the death of 22 year old John Guion. He was the SysOp of a most popular and creative TI bbs in Dallas, Texas. He was also the designer of the p-GRAM card, which is being sold by Bud Mills Services. I regret that I never met this fine young man. I am sure that his work in our community will never be forgotten.

Our library has recently become reactivated. There has also recently been a significant number of new additions to the library. If you haven't purchased your copy of our new library listing, I suggest that you do so. The programs are more numerous and better than ever.

Speaking of our library, special thanks to Stanley Beyer of Freeport, Illinois. Stan wanted to do something to help our

group, so he volunteered to help with the evaluation of the disks which the group was collecting through our program exchange. At this writing, Stan has gone through about 136 disks. Most of these disks will be available in our library by the time of the Faire. As they are not listed in the latest library catalog, special flyers will list these new additions. Be sure to check our library table as soon as you enter the Faire exposition hall.

Continuing with the subject of our library, many, many thanks to Jeanette Bordelon our (cooperating) librarian and Tom Niemczyk (our official assistant librarian). Loyal and stolid as ever, they manned our library table during our last meeting. Thanks, team. Your work was deeply appreciated, and you were both as effective as ever.

One more comment, regarding our library: It was decided, by our executive board, to acquire a separate post office box for our library. The new address, for our library orders only is as follows: Chicago TI Users' Group's Library, P.O. Box 641083, Chicago, Illinois 60664-1083. Please use this address for your future library orders. Relative to your library orders, please include your telephone number, in case there are any questions about your order. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY!!!

Since I now have only another two more months as president, I have been already thinking about what I can do with all of the extra time that I will have on my hands. One thing that I have been considering is writing an article on Donn Granros's fine program, "LEGENDS." It would be in a somewhat similar format as Dave Wakely's fine Spadventure column. I am sure that I will never be able to write as well and as interestingly as Dave did, but I sure will give it my best shot. Your comments on this idea would be most appreciated. (Of course, I will continue with my Geneve Support Article.)

Please consider coming to this year's Faire. It will truly be a family event. A bus will be operating on a published schedule which will be taking wives and daughters to and from the Woodfield Shopping Center. Don't forget the pool, the game room, the sauna, the steam room, and the exercise room which will all be a part of the Holiday Inn facility where our Faire will be held. Our third annual Friday Night Social Mixer will take place, as usual, the night before the Faire. Our third annual Saturday Night Dinner will act as a fitting conclusion to our Chicago Faire. But for those who work hard during the Chicago Faire, there will be the Milwaukee Faire on the following Sunday; it will be a place where the Chicago workers can go and not have to worry about doing any work! Please, come to the Faire. You won't be disappointed. Trust me...

Speaking about our Faire, if you would like to distribute

flyers, please let me know. If you can't make our meeting to pick some up, I am willing to mail them to you. Now, this is one way that almost anyone can help.

During the summer months, Ernie Pergrem has been putting together a supplementary manual on TI Writer. This publication is similar to our very popular hardware manual in that it is a compilation of articles from various newsletters, our own included, regarding some more advanced use of TI Writer. This manual is not intended to either duplicate or replace the manual which comes with TI Writer. Rather, it is designed to be a supplement to the standard TI Writer manual, and, for me, the real beauty of this manual is that is shows us things that NO other word processor for ANY other computer is capable of doing. The table of contents is divided into four sections. The first includes four articles regarding the editor, the second has three articles on advanced use of the formatter, the third has four fine articles on the production of graphics, and the last is entitled, "Programs, Printers, & Miscellany." It is the largest section of all with fourteen articles. The entire manual has a total of 56 pages, and the print quality is superior to what we used for our hardware manual. The cost of this manual will be $6.00, but as a Faire special, we will be offering them for $5.00 until the end of this year's Faire. (If you order this publication by mail, please include $2.00 for postage and handling.) One important point: Our TI Writer Supplement is now with our printer. I spoke to him last night, and he does not expect to have them before the Faire. I therefore suggest that you wait to pick up yours after the Faire; if you wish to order by mail, please wait until the first of November to send your orders in. If you want or need to use TI Writer, then this publication is a winner. TRUST ME...

One last item: During our last meeting, the executive board saw fit to clarify my statements regarding exactly what our group will offer to those members who donate the use of their equipment for our Faire. This is a statement of our policy: If you donate a full system (a full P.E.B. with a console) you will receive three pieces of software with a free renewal of next year's membership. If you donate a television set or a monitor, you will receive seven pieces of software. If you donate both a system and a t.v. or monitor, you will receive both the seven pieces of software and the free renewal of next year's membership. If you wish to qualify, you must make arrangements with our hardware chairman, my friend Jan Joel Janowski. You may call our hot-line, our bbs, The Chicago Connection BBS, or write to our p.o. box. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please make contact now, as we are already coming close to the quota of systems which we will be needing. If you just show up with a system without prior approval, you may well be out of luck.

FOUR-A/TALK

Random ramblings
about things TI.

by Bill Gaskill

September 1989

MILESTONES

-Dr. Guy Steffen-Romano died August 15, 1989. Long time 99ers will remember Dr. Romano as the first librarian for the IUG. Some will remember the many excellent articles he wrote in the National 99er and in Enthusiast 99. But most of all, we will remember him for the Amnion Helpline at 116 Carl St. in San Francisco, California. The source of a seemingly limitless fountain of information and dedication to the TI community, Dr. Romano earned the respect of any 99er who came in contact with him. May his wisdom be carried on and his example of dedication never die.

WHAT'S HOT:

The HARRISON WORD PROCESSOR, TI-SORT, TI-Base V2.02. and HARDMASTER

DISCOVERIES:

-As a follow up to last month's information on TI-SORT; I received another copy from Dennis Faherty along with V2.02 of TI-Base. WOW! I now get to use my hard disk storage to its full potential. These are the kind of tools that I have been waiting for. Thank you Inscebot!!!

TI-SORT both runs from and reads and writes to a hard disk drive using Myarc's HFDC. I am now able to tackle virtually anything I have and put it in either ascending or descending order. While TI-SORT cannot compete with Peter Hoddie's SORT EXPERIMENT fairware program as far as speed, it blows it away in record capacity. You may recall from a previous Four-A/Talk article that I thought TI-SORT would "do" 99999 records. Not so according to author Dennis Faherty. There is a counter in the program that necessarily limits that maximum to 32,767 records. That'll do.

My real love of course is TI-Base. It has been enhanced to support the hard disk environment in V2.02 so all of you HFDC owners with a hard disk will want to upgrade. The speed of all read/write operations from within TI-Base is easily 10 times faster than a floppy drive can offer. Command file interpretation hasn't changed, but look for an improvement in that area too when V3.0 comes out. Dennis says that he is going to "tuck" more of the command file in memory so less is read from disk on the longer files.

Inscebot Inc.
P.O. Box 291610
Port Orange, Fl. 32029

-If you are looking for a really good article explaining relational data base managers versus flat-file data base managers, pick up a copy of the September 1989 PC Resource magazine. The late Kent Porter, former senior

technical editor of Dr. Dobb's Journal, has an article published there that is the best that I have seen for the layperson. Understandable and moderately comprehensive in scope, this one article is well worth the $2.95 investment for the magazine. The article is entitled "Step Up to Power And Convenience", and it is found on pages 58-64.

-Asgard's Chris Bobbitt has announced a sector editor for the Myarc HFDC called HardMaster. The program is written by Colin Christensen and apparently includes the ability to let you edit in hex or ASCII, dump a range of sectors to a printer, edit four sectors at a time and more. It also comes with an extensive manual that provides information about how data is stored on the hard drive, plus a novel hard disk backup utility. Price is $14.95.

Asgard Software
Box 10306
Rockville, Md. 20850
703-255-3085

NEWS:

-Did you notice that the September Computer Shopper did not have the TI FORUM column in it? Word is that there are some shorter publishing deadlines imposed by the new editor and "we" missed them I guess. Walt Howe, one of the TI NET sysops on Delphi suggests that we write to Computer Shopper to express our concern. I agree. Please take a few moments to write to the new editor to let him know how important the TI column in each issue is to us. Write to:

Bob Lindstrom
Editor-In-Chief
Computer Shopper
1 Park Ave.
New York, New York 10016

-Scott Darling, GEnie sysop for the TI-RoundTable for the last 3-4 years, has departed for greener pastures it appears. Thanks for all the time and effort on behalf of the TI Community Scott!

But guess who took his place. None other than the "Professor of Arc", the "Guru of I/O" and the "Master of Mechatronics", Mr. Barry Boone!!!! How's that for loyalty? The guy never stops supporting us. And he hasn't even been a GEnie subscriber all that long, either. GREAT to have you aboard Barry.

-John Johnson has released his Remind Me! appointments calendar program into the public domain. While I purchased mine commercially when it first appeared, you can now get the same program for FREE. It will probably show up on your club's BBS shortly. Remind Me! is a nice program that has served me well. When run from a Horizon Ram Disk it isexcellent because it actually was faster to use than turning to the paper system of yesteryear. Run from a floppy drive, it's still pretty good too.

John explains his reasons for the public domain release and treats a sensitive topic like a gentleman. I was a little miffed at first since I forked over the bucks for it, but his explaination makes sense, and the fact that he took the time to provide it for those who paid for the program says even more.

-Peter Hoddie contacted me the other day to report that the new AV-INDEXER program for cassette and VCR labeling etc. is well on the way to making

it's commercial debut. He mentioned that it has "one of the neatest user interfaces" going. Wonder what that means exactly. If it's anything like cSHELL99 then its going to be pretty "neat".

Word also is out from JPH that the next release of FirstBase is ready to be beta tested. If I got my act together in time, I might get a copy to look at. Hope so. There are some new search routines in it I'm told and WaWa and Co. are looking at ways to simplify the report generation module. No date yet on the commercial release of the upgrade though.

-In case you haven't heard, TENEX seems to be winding down it's 99/4A business and reducing it's inventory. According to John Kolean, TENEX will not be producing any more TI-99/4A catalogs. Too bad for us all. I guess we just don't spend enough money, or there just aren't enough exciting new products coming out for the 4A? Either way, we all lose.

-CompuServe's TI FORUM ran a message across my monitor this month about a "tiff" of sorts between a well-known and respected user group personality and the head of a large 99/4A software company. I guess I subscribe to on-line information services to get information, but that kind of stuff is not what I put money out for. Come on guys! There's got to more to write about than that!

HARRISON WORD PROCESSOR:

-I'm not going to give you a lot of information on HWP since a review of it will appear in MICROpendium some time in the future. I will tell you that the program is 100% assembly language coded, it supports more pages per document than TI-Writer and it uses a menu-driven user interface instead of the command driven interface that TI-Writer users are accustomed to. I will also tell you that author Bruce Harrison has broken down the barrier on support-after-the-sale for 4A software by offering free telephone support for the product until midnight Mondays through Fridays. I will also tell you that it is very obvious to me that Mr. Harrison is a talented assembly language programmer, who also possesses a clear picture of what a professional piece of commercial software should look like. If you are interested in finding out more about the Harrison Word Processor you may contact;

Harrison Software
5705 40th Place
Hyattsville, Md. 20781
301-277-3467

THIS MONTH IN TI-99 HISTORY:

<1980>

Charles LaFara incorporates the International 99/4 Users Group in Bethany, Oklahoma. In its four and half year life the IUG will grow to a claimed membership of over 100,000 people in 54 countries around the world.

-Chicago TI Users Group is formed by Jerry Strauss.

<1981>

The Source on-line information service promises TEXNET start-up by month's end but it does not occur.

<1982>

Peripheral Expansion Box released in UK a month later than promised.

-ALPINER and OTHELLO to be available in England by October.

-MINI-MEM, LOGO and E/A modules offered in England.

-Oak Tree Systems introduces the little known and poorly received CROSSUMS. The program is Chuck Davis' only entry into the educational programs market.

-TI introduces the Computer Advantage Club.

-Navarone Industries is headquartered in Sunnyvale, California.

-TI and Control Data Corporation reach an agreement that will produce over 100 Plato titles for the 99/4A.

-TI begins a $100 rebate campaign that is slated to end January 31, 1983.

-USUS (UCSD Pascal Users Society) forms in Dallas, Texas, with Robert Peterson as president.

-A New York marketing firm survey shows that TI is losing shelf space to VIC-20 in Toys 'R US, K-Mart, Woolco and the Montgomery Ward stores.

<1983>

Jerry Riley is elected as the first president of the Front Range 99ers with John Pearce as VP, Bonnie Snyder is the secretary and John Williams treasurer.

<1984>

Richard Mitchell begins publishing the "Super 99 Monthly" from Sulphur, Louisiana.

-GRAM KRACKER prototype announced by Millers Graphics.

-The Wycove Forth language is released by Tim McEchearn, a Canadian author of computer programmers.

-Myarc releases the MPES/50 expansion System with 32K memory, RS232/PIO ports and a SS/DD disk drive and controller. Retail price is $595. An MPES/50-RPM is also offered for cassette only owners. The -RPM model lacks the disk drive and controller.

Tarik Asani of StarSoft releases three new assembly language programs for the 99/4A; Microkey, for defining keyboard macros, Nibbler, a disk copier program, and Unprotector, a program to unprotect Extended Basic programs while they are in memory.

-Microcomputers Software 34 Maple Ave. Armonk, Ny. 10504 914-273-6480 releases Tiny Logo on cassette. The program uses only console memory.

-Cheryl Whitelaw, (Aka REGENA) profile appears in the National 99er newsletter out of Bakersfield, Ca.

-"XB Home Applications" book by Christopher Flynn is released by Compute! Books.

<1985>

Thomas Weithofer releases PILOT 99.

-John Taylor releases CHECKBOOK/BUDGET MANAGER program.

-Barry Traver joins CompuServe as Sysop on the TI Forum.

<1986>

Last REGENA or any other article that will appear in Compute! magazine. The end of Compute! support for the 99/4A has come quietly and uncerimoniously.

<1987>

Jack Riley joins Myarc as a partner.

-Alpha Scientific Box 626 Chesterfield, Missouri 63006 314-878-7117, advertises a 3.5 inch Toshiba disk drive kit for the 99/4A in Computer Shopper.

-Harry Brashear a New York 99er, writes a critical letter to all 99ers who are moving away from the 99/4A. The letter is posted on the major TI-SIGS for all to read. It draws scathing criticism in return for its fanaticism and insults to Craig Miller and other former 99/4A supporters.

-Marty Kroll releases CATLIB V1.5.

-Geneve column debuts in MICROpendium.

<1988>

Myarc GEME windows manager appears in MICROpendium with photos and a write-up done by John Kolean.

-New Myarc question and answer column debuts in MICROpendium.

-Asgard releases Batch-It program from Charles Earl and Tom Bentley.

-Asgard releases Oliver's Twist, a game by Mickey Schmitt and Lynn Gardner.

Genial Computerware releases MacFlix and FirstBase.

TRIVIA:

Did you know that;

-Bill Warren, Gene Bohot, Wayne Stith, John Johnson, Steve Mehr and Rodger Merritt all had a hand in the making of Comprodine's FormShop program? Bill Warren started the sequence of events that would give birth to FormShop by coming up with the idea to use TI-Writer's CHARA1 file control codes for all the screen borders that you can have when designing a file in PR Base. Gene Bohot came up with the idea to use the same modified file back in TI-Writer to provide borders and boxes etcetera in a text file. Gene then went about trying to get into the CHARA1 file with Wayne Stith's Quik Font program, but the codes needed to be accessed were out of the scope of what Quik Font was designed to handle. So Gene contacted Wayne to see if Quik Font could be modified to include access to the

necessary ASCII codes. Wayne tackled the challenge and came up with the necessary tools to get the job done. The end product of Wayne's efforts is the CHARA1FIX program that he released to public domain a few month's ago. Gene then showed what he had to Steve Mehr, ever the mover and shaker of "things TI". Steve convinced partner Rodger Merritt of the commercial value of the idea and Rodger, with a little help from John Johnson's WORD program, put his wizard's touch on the whole concept and turned out FormShop. How's that for trivia?

-TI's arrogance and lack of marketing skill was at it's height when they held the new MunchMan cartridge hostage and demanded that users who wanted a copy first buy any four of the existing modules or one of the module libraries to get it? The "MunchMan Plan" began in February 1982 but was abandoned in May of the same year. I'm sure glad that I wasn't a 99/4A owner back then. I might have trashed the whole system and gone to a Commodore. The more research I do into the history of the 99/4 and 4A, the more I am amazed that the computer got off the ground at all, or that anyone bought one. Texas Instruments seems to have done just about everything wrong (from a marketing perspective) that they could have done, in selling the computer.

-Even back in 1981 and 1982 there were little or no ads, articles or much of anything else written about or for the 99/4? If it were not for Charles LaFara's International 99/4 Users Group, a little known entity called the International Home Computer Users Association out of San Diego and the emergence of 99er Magazine, there wouldn't be much of anything in print. Creative Computing's David Ahl apparently recognized the potential of the machine and provided some coverage in the early days, but magazines like Byte took one look at the 99/4 in 1979 and dismissed the machine as a worthless toy. Compute! didn't begin publishing articles and programs for or about the computer until January of 1983, and even then most of the stuff was geared towards the console-only owner, who it was assumed only had the built in Basic and a cassette recorder.

Indications are that TI's secretiveness about their machine was so pervasive that besides not opening up the architecture of the computer to third party hardware and software developers, they wouldn't even release information on how many units had been sold. Software developers were necessarily reluctant to make the investment into products for a computer with an unknown installation base. Authors of magazine articles had little to write about since few products were being released for the computer compared to what was available for other machines and so little information was available about the "guts" of the TI machine that there wasn't much left to consider. No wonder there are so few articles and such, huh?

-LOGO for the 99/4 was the first implementation of the LOGO language for any computer under $10,000? TI introduced their original LOGO in April 1981 as a disk and module based application, but sold it only to "qualified" school districts. Individuals could not purchase a commercial version of it until some months later

-Charles Ehninger, owner of the Futura Software company that produced a host of software for the 99/4 and 4A, was the first winner of TI's Author Incentive Program? He picked up $3,000 first place money back in April 1981 for his Household Inventory program. Not an ordinary effort, Household Inventory, which may still be available from Tenex, computed the fair market value of your belongings based upon a host of data from the Bureau of Statistics.

-Bill Bies, author of the assembly games, ARCTURUS, ARTHROPOD, and

AsTIroids for the 99/4A, marketed them under the name North Hills Software? Mr. Bies was 14 years old at the time he undertook the business venture. That would make him about 20 years old today!

-Walter J. Dollard, who MICROpendium subscribers will remember as one of the major software developers for the 99/4A that was interviewed in an early 1984 article John or Laura did, was 18 years old at the time. That would make him about 23 years old today. Wish we still had them in the community today.

GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE...

Howdy doody there, sports fans!!! I hope that the summer was nice to you, but now it is time to prepare ourselves for the fall and the inevitable return to work and our most time of the calendar. I am speaking about the Judeo-Christian holidays and THE ANNUAL CHICAGO TI FAIRE!!! Yes, sports fans, its getting close to that time, and we are expecting another big bash. I feel so fortunate to have Sandy Bartels and Marcy Brun on the case. They are real pros, and I can't even think of what our Faire would be like without their expert handling and many sacrifices. Thank you, Sandy and Marcy. We need you, and we appreciate you for all that you have done for our past Faires. Now onto Genny STUFF:

This last summer, I spent some time goofing-off. (Isn't that what summers are for???) One of the things that I did was to play Ray Kazmer's fine maze game, VALENTINE. The more that I played that game, the more respect that I came to have for Ray. The game is VERY well done. (I'm not just talking about Ray's programming abilities. I am also talking about his design of the game.) What is truly amazing is the fact that he wrote it entirely in Extended BASIC. The graphics are great, the sound effects are appropriate, the music is tastefully and adroitly done, and his very conception of the game is an excellent one. I found the game addicting, and I attribute this to the fact that it was so very well done. I predict a nice future for this fine, young programmer. Keep up the great work, Ray. Now on to the challenges of the community:

I was having a real bear of a problem early in the summer when I first put my Myarc HFDC into my PEB with my Genny. The problem was a strange one, and it only happened when I put my HFDC in my PEB!!! Everyone with a Genny is probably well acquainted with John Johnson's great menu programs which run out of GPL. Most of us are also aware of the fine modifications of his menu that have been made by fine programmers such as Jim Schroeder and Randy Moore. Well, my problem was related to menu programs of Messers Moore and Schroeder, that are modifications of John Johnson's menu program. With all of these menu programs, there is the handy function which allows you to do a directory on any physical or logical disk drive. You can then move the cursor until it is over a particular file that you want to load. You must then press the "Enter" key which will return you to the main menu. From there, you invoke the "Load File" function. The program then automatically brings up the name of the file that you wish to load and allows you to load the file with the single stroke of the "Enter" key. Very neat, isn't it? (This was something that I really missed from my 4A days, when I was using my trusty HRD with my TI. Fortunately, it wasn't long before the great programmers in the Genny portion of our community started doing modifications and patches for the stuff that we used to use with the 4A, so that we could use them with Genny.) It is a

fine function, especially when it works. In my case, it would work fine with every drive except disk drive #1. What a bummer! At first I thought that it was bad software. I then thought that I had a bad Genny or a bad HFDC. All attempts to find the source of the problem based upon the above theories were totally unsuccessful. I was then left with eliminating each of the cards in my PEB until I was able to isolate the problem. Well, the last card that I removed proved to be the source of the problem; I am speaking about my stock, standard model TI RS232. I never would have believed it. I took it out of the box, and the problem was gone. I replaced it with a different TI RS232, and the problem was still gone. But if I put the original card back into the PEB, the problem re-emerged. How many problems with Genny systems have been blamed on poor Genny when the true cause was a totally different card, component, or peripheral in the system? I only say that as this continues to confirm my own personal experience with my Genny: I still have yet to have a hardware problem with it; all of the problems that I have had have either been with other peripherals or with my software. Because of the difficulty of finding the source of a problem, I tend to feel that Genny has often been forced to take blame for problems for which she is not responsible. A similar thing occurred later in the summer. When I was running my system long and hard on some very hot days, I was unable to go back in forth between MDOS and GPL without the system locking up. I immediately figured that it was Genny. It turned out to be my HRD! Therefore, PLEASE DON'T BLAME GENNY OR ANYTHING OR ANYBODY UNTIL YOU ARE REALLY SURE!!! Just a thought that I feel that we need to keep in mind. Now for this months installment of my AUTOEXEC file:

In a past article, I mentioned that you can have and use as many different AUTOEXEC files as you wish, as you can easily load them separately without rebooting your entire system. In that past article, I said that you could have and use as many different files as long as their names were preceeded with an ampersand "&". This is true and not true at the same time. It was brought to my attention by a fine programmer, John Birdwell, that the ampersand is necessary only when you are loading the file. Suppose you need to create a new AUTOEXEC file for a specific usage. You can give it a name like "RATFINK," as in the sentence, "My friend Dave Wakely is a RATFINK!" Yes, you can load this AUTOEXEC file easily by merely typing in its name when you are in the DOS mode, but you will preceed the name with "&" so that it would read "&RATFINK." Of course you will enter this name at the prompt indicating the drive where your file is located. I hope that this clarifies something that I said that was not entirely true. Before I leave this aspect of the all important loading of an AUTOEXEC file, here is something else of interest: Try loading a file named "&". When you do this, Genny goes out and looks for a non-existant file with a non-existant name. You therefore end up with no AUTOEXEC parameters entered. It's just like you loaded your DOS without an AUTOEXEC file. One last thing: Reboot you DOS, but after the keyboard flashes, to show that it has reset itself, hold down the "Del" key until the rebooting is completed. When you do this, the AUTOEXEC file on your HRD or hard drive is ignored, and Genny looks for a file named AUTOEXEC in physical drive "A" (#1). Do you find this interesting? Well, if you do, then try this: While in M-DOS, press Ctrl-Shift-Shift. Notice that you get a swan graphic. This is because you have just rebooted your machine and you have also rebooted the DOS again. I think that this would be called a "cold boot." I prefer to call it a "cool boot," because I find that if I really want to totally clean out my memory, I had best turn my Genny off for a couple of minutes and then turn it back on again. For a "warm boot," again while in M-DOS, press Ctrl-Alt-Del. The machine reboots, but this time you don't get a swan graphic! If you keep the "Delete" key depressed while doing the warm boot, Genny will go directly to your physical drive "A" in search of your AUTOEXEC file. Now, let's look at

what we have in our current version of our AUTOEXEC file that we are building together:

```
TI MODE
RAMDISK 120
LASTDRIVE = L
ASSIGN E=DSK5:
ASSIGN F=DSK6:
ASSIGN G=hdS1:
VER
TIME
DATE
```

All of the above is good and functional; now let's add something new:

```
PROMPT $D$B$T$_$N$G
```

What the heck has Krazy Krome Dome done this time? Is he throwing us a lot of gibberish this month??? No, sports fans. This is the PROMPT command, and it controls what kind of screen prompt you will have each time that you press enter or after a command has been completed in M-DOS mode. Unless you enter the PROMPT command into your AUTOEXEC file, with certain characters, all that you will have will be a flashing line-cursor. Using the PROMPT command will change all that. Let's take a look at the command-characters that I have chosen to use: The "$" is necessary when the PROMPT command will include one or more items of information. It must precede the first command character and be between each command character, when you choose to use more than one. The "D" produces the current date, the "B" is a space character, the "T" produces the current time, the "_" is a signal to end the current line and start a new one, the "N" is the current drive, and the "G" is the "greater than" sign. (Though I have used upper case letters, lower case letters will give the same effect.) Try entering this new command into your AUTOEXEC file and see what the results are. Also, feel free to experiment with other command characters and other combinations. You will find them all listed on pages 75-76 of your Genny manual. You will also be able to find them in any MS-DOS instruction manual. More on our AUTOEXEC file next month. Now, let's deal with some software:

As of the writing of this article (June 29, 1988), I still have software that I have not had a chance to run which I purchased at our last Chicago Faire! That's just an indicator of how busy I have been. I have been promising my readers and certain individuals something of a review of a lot of stuff by quite a few different programmers and third party companies. One of the most important companies in the TI community is Genial Computerware. They have created a significant number of important programs for both the 4A and the Geneve. The last program of theirs which I have purchased and used is Paul Charlton's Picture Transfer. This is the fully implemented graphics program which he has been promising us; it is an outgrowth of his wonderful "fair ware" program, GIF2. GIF2 is a program that allows those of us with a Genny to view GIF graphics, even though they may have been generated by a Macintosh II, an Apple, an Amiga, an Atari ST, or even a mere "Klone." Picture Transfer does all that GIF2 did and much, much more. The first thing that I must tell you is that it will load and view graphics in the following formats: GIF, MY-Art, TI Artist, Graphx, or RLE. You can also save any loaded format into either MY-Art or GIF format! This means that anything that was done in TI Artist, or any of the other mentioned graphic formats, can be loaded and converted into MY-Art format (but without the color), so that you can work on them using your beloved Genny; nothing done with TI Artist will be lost because of your choice to use a Genny. (As of this writing, I am unable

to make the function which converts picture files into GIF format to work. I may have a bad copy of the program, so I have already written to Genial Computerware asking for help in this area. I will share their response, or lack of it, with you if and when I receive it.) Besides these nice features, there is more:

Picture Transfer supports the full graphics capabilities of the 9640. It can show pictures in a 256 X 424 mode with 256 colors, and in a 512 X 424 mode with 16 colors. Because there are so many potential color combinations, Picture Transfer selects what it considers to be an optimal display mode for the 9640, but this choice can be overridden by the user.

One of the nicest things about Picture Transfer is the fact that you can extract pieces of several pictures saved in different formats and combine them into a single picture. This composite picture can be saved in GIF or MY-Art format! This means that you can work on whatever you are able to view, using MY-Art.

Another feature of this program is the ability to create a "slide show" to display your collection of graphics. (One of my projects for this summer is to finish my "slide show" display to show the non-believer exactly what my Genny can do! So far, it is currently running about 30 minutes long, and all of the files are being loaded off of my hard drive. Very nice and fairly fast, considering how long it takes for most GIF and MY-Art pictures to load.) The only problem that I have encountered with my "slide show" is that some files which run well when displayed individually will be displayed as garbage or incorrectly if they are preceeded by files of a certain resolution WHEN THEY ARE BEING LOADED WITHIN A SLIDE SHOW "SCRIPT." (A slide show "script" is a sort of a program that loads your pictures automatically without any help from the user. It is called a "script," because, just like the script of a play, which gives instructions to an actor or actress, this script give instructions to the program Picture Transfer. Also, it is created as a DV/80 file using either MY-Word or TI Writer.) The problem is solved by changing the position of the offending files or adding in certain parameters which allow the program script to load the files correctly.

The documentation for this program is clear, but, should you have some question(s), by typing in the command "HELP", you will receive a list of the syntax of all commands. By typing in the command MDOS cmdstr (followed by the MDOS command string), you can do some M-DOS commands without having to exit the program! This means that you can do a directory of a drive without leaving Picture Transfer.

This program works very well, and I am very pleased with it. It even comes with a few GIF picture examples and a sample batch file script. I can recommend it to all Genny users with my only reservation, being that my copy of the program is still unable to convert a picture into GIF format, and I hope that Genial Computerware will eventually provide me with an answer to this problem or at least answer my correspondence. In spite of this significant defect, I still really like it. But before I leave the subject of Picture Transfer, I would like to mention a couple of other things that the potential buyer should know: a.) When you first buy this program, you receive it in a format which I call "CRIPPLED WARE." This means that not all of its documented functions are functional. In order to get a completely functional copy, you must return the warranty card, and a fully implemented and personalized copy will be sent to you by mail. b.) I did not have to pay the advertised $25.00 cost for this program. The reason for this is that I had sent in my $15.00 "Fair Ware" fee for GIF2. Paul Charlton, the author of the program had a

list of all registered purchasers of GIF2 with him, at the last Faire. As my name was there, I had to pay only $10.00. To me, this was very faire (sic).

If you choose to get into GIF graphics, you want to find a short "Free Ware" program by John Johnson. This program is called FIXGIF, and it does exactly what its title says: it fixes GIF's, and it does it in this way: In a GIF file, the beginning of the file should always start with the string "GIF87a." Sometimes you will download or receive a GIF file that you can't run. If you run this program with the GIF, it will strip off anything before the "GIF87a" string and create a new file from "GIF87a" on. You may find this file in our program library or on one of the boards in the TI community.

Another piece of software, dealing with graphics, that I purchased from Genial Computerware, is MacFlix. This program is devoted entirely to a graphic format called MacPaint, which originated on the Macintosh Computer. There are literally thousands of these pictures on various information services and bulletin boards. MacFlix, by Mr. J. Peter Hoddie, will allow you to view, print, and save MacPaint graphics. These pictures, when printed out, are a full 8 X 10 inches. When they are viewed on the screen, as with the Mac, you are unable to see all of a picture at one time, but using MacFlix with your Genny, you can see more of a MacPaint picture than you can using a standard Macintosh screen!!! (EAT YER HEARTS OUT, YOU POOR MAC SLOBS!!!) In order to see all of it, you have to print it out.

MacPaint pictures are only line graphics in black and white. Using MacFlix, they can be saved in either TI Artist or hi-res or lo-res MY-Art format. (I have taken some portions of some of MacPaint pictures and converted them into MY-Art format. There, I have been playing around with them and adding my own color. For a dummy like me, this is high fun!!!)

MacFlix is written in assembly language, so it loads and functions at a lightening fast speed. It also comes with an Extended BASIC loader. The program allows you to invert your pictures, catalogue any storage device (hard drives included), and delete a file. It can be run on either a 4A or a Genny; on a 4A it can also be loaded from a Super-Cart.
If you have another Genial Computerware program, PC-Transfer, you can move MacPaint pictures to and from ibm disks, a source of thousands of these pictures. It, like Picture Transfer, completely supports hard drive functions. That is, you can load the program off of your hard drive, and you can read and catalogue MacPaint files stored on your hard drive. This is a very neat piece of software, and at $15.00, I feel that it is well worth the cost. Between MY-Art, Picture Transfer, TI Artist, and MacFlix, I feel that I have all of my graphics needs taken care of for the immediate future.

In my above article, I have mentioned another Genial Computerware program called PC-Transfer. This is a most useful program for those who are forced to deal with text files written on machines using MS-DOS operating systems. This program, by Mr. Mike Dodd, will work on both a 4A or a Genny, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE DOUBLE SIDED, DOUBLE DENSITY DRIVES AND A FDC THAT WILL SUPPORT THIS FORMAT! This program allows you to catalogue and select files that you wish to copy to a TI disk. You can even search for files in a subdirectory. You then enter a TI filename for each of the files, and PC-Transfer will automatically convert the MS-DOS files into DV/80 format so that the files may be used with MY-Word or TI Writer. PC-Transfer also allows you to change DV/80 files into different MS-DOS based formats. Though I have never used this program, the editor-in-chief

of this newsletter, Mr. Big Bob Demeter owns and has used this program extensively, and he says that it works well. Bob's case is a classic example of a man who doesn't have a Genny at work, but he does have a mere klone at his disposal. He will often edit newsletter contributions that he has converted to MS-DOS format while at work. He then restores them to DV/80 format when he returns home. I have also authorized Mr. Mike ("ROBOFROG") Maksimik to purchase this program for use with our bbs. I will be purchasing it soon, and I will report back with my experiences relative to it. Until then, if you need to deal with text files which were written on a klone, or if you need to change TI text files into MS-DOS format, then this program is the one for you.

As this article is getting to be too long, I will stop now. I will discuss more of my experiences with the fine software coming out of Genial Computerware next month. I will also discuss the fine programs that are coming from a very intelligent and creative programmer in Milwaukee, Mr. Jim Schroeder. Until then,

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Say, there's the trenches, and I'm at 4,500 feet. Better keep it at full throttle, there's plenty of gas. I don't see a whole lot happening over there yet, but enemy territory is still pretty far away.

Ah, now if I look down I can see both sides of the trenches, and I'm at 8,000 feet, still not very safe, but we're getting there. That speed needle seems to be stuck on 100 mph, maybe I'd better tap it a few times to see if it's working. Well, it seems to be, guess I would know soon enough if it was malfunctioning. Still don't see much, even thought we're at 10,000 feet now. There goes the Eastern edge of the trench, so I'm over enemy territory now, better keep my eyes peeled. Hey wait, there's an Albatross (German observation plane) down below, and he looks like he doesn't see me. This might even work!

Well, what IS that black dot down there, could it be the top of one of the balloons, seen from above? It doesn't seem to be moving. It's hard to tell from 11,000 feet. It sure is strange to be looking down on the clouds. How come there's never any cloud cover when you need it? Come to think of it, there's NEVER any cloud cover at all! Isn't that strange?

Sigh. You know, this is almost getting boring, now that it looks like I haven't attracted a lot of attention. Not only is it getting boring, but it may be stupid, too. For all I can see, there might be 550,000 soldiers down there, slugging it out hand-to-hand, for all I can spot. I WOULD be able to see it if Gerry were moving a large number of artillery pieces up, wouldn't I? Isn't that the point of all this?

The point of all this, is, uh, what? What is the point of all this? Let's see, someone shot the Archduke Ferdinand, whoever he was, a few years ago, and then a whole bunch of countries which weren't getting along very well decided to try to decimate each other, so that's why this boy from the States is up here trying to keep his butt from getting blown up, and what the hell is an Archduke, anyway?

Enough of that! Time to take stock. Let's see, I'm at, what, 15,000 feet? Can that be right? I still have over half a tank of gas, I'm heading straight East, and the Air Speed indicator keeps swinging between about 80 and 100 MPH. Everything looks okay to me. No news is good news. Although I wish I could see something, anything. Let's see, left, right, back, down, ahead. Nothing, not a bloody thing, as the English might say. Maybe it's possible to go TOO high, so you can't really make out anything on the ground anymore. Is that possible?

Too high? Wait a minute, how high can I go in this thing, and what happens when I get there? Uh, somewhere around 21,000 feet, isn't that what the instructors said? Then they said they "don't recommend" going any higher, whatever that means. Say, maybe this is finally getting interesting. Let's see, where am I? When I get much past the trenches, going East, I should come to...where the #!%$ did I put that map? Here it is...I should be somewhere around the Marne Hills, with the burned out village of Mareuil off the left wing, only they aren't there. Or is it that I'm too high up to see them?

Hey wait a minute, all of a sudden I have less than a half tank of gas. How did that happen? And how did it get so cold? It's a funny thing, too, that the plane doesn't seem to be climbing much anymore. Or is it? Maybe I won't even make it to 21,000. Strange how the instrument panel seems so fuzzy now. Am I going through a cloud? Why am I getting so dizzy? After all, I'm still travelling in a straight line, right? At least that's what the instruments say. Unless they don't work right up

here. Ah, there's 18,000 feet going by. Goodbye, 18, hello 19. Sounds like the lyrics to a song. Say, am I getting silly, or what? There's a war on and I don't know where I am, why can't I take this seriously?

Uh oh, 18,500 feet and I'm down to a quarter of a tank of gas. Do I turn around? Do I even care? Care? Care about what? The war? My problems? What?...Wait, WAIT! Oxygen! I'm up so high the air is thin enough to affect my brain! That's why I'm not thinking straight. That's probably why the Baron isn't up here. You can't think right and your reactions and judgement are affected by it. Let's see, if I was thinking right, what would I do? I know, turn around before I run out of fuel and crash, that seems like a good idea. Got to keep myself together.

Okay, 19,000 feet now, and this is as far East as I'm going. For all I know, I'm over Berlin. A nice hard right bank ought to do it...There we go, straight West, that should do it, if the instruments are still working. Why do I keep worrying about the instruments? Wait! What the HELL is that! Straight ahead, it looks like, it couldn't be...It IS! It's a dog, looks like a beagle wearing a leather helmet and a silk scarf, flying on...a DOGHOUSE!!!

No, wait a minute, I'm hallucinating now, lack of oxygen. At least I hope so. He seems to be gone, but he waived goodbye before he disappeared. Weirdsville. I just wish I could see something, anything, down there (Spad Note: even the "perspective lines" in Spad XIII, Mark 2 disappear above about 18,000 feet or so). Oops, I'm at 20,000 feet. Now I'm either going to set a new altitude record, pass out, or both. Let's see, discretion is the better part of valium, isn't that how it goes?

This calls for drastic action. Time to power down. The heck with the rest of the mission. I'm so far up I could probably turn off the engine and coast all the way back, but that might be pushing it. How about if I try 400 RPM? That should drastically cut fuel consumption. Let's see, top throttle is what? 1200? So eight clicks down should do it. There, that's...whoa! That's a steep dive. The horizon is "above" the top wing, but what the heck. There isn't anyone else crazy enough to be up here, so why not? Besides, air speed is only about 120 or so, so it should be safe enough.

Okay, down around 12,000 feet now and...wait, wait just a minute, what's that up ahead? It's something, it's maybe the trenches already? That can't be, can it? Unless I'm so high up I can see 50 miles ahead. No, it's not the usual yellow color, it's...blue. Blue? Where have I seen that before? No...It just can't be, it's...the Seine!! I must still be hallucinating, because I've been flying for over 30 minutes at top speed to the East, and now I seem to be 10 minutes West of the airfield in a matter of five minutes, tops. But now I'm below 10,000 feet, breathing easy and and thinking clearly, and yet that is definitely the river...and, the Eiffel Tower!! How the heck did I get here?

What do I do now, turn around and head West again? It looks like I have about 1/8 of a tank of gas left. What if I run out? At least I'm over friendly territory. Or am I? How did I get a hundred miles or so West all of a sudden? Maybe I did pass out and flew for some time while I was unconscious. No, that doesn't make any sense, then why didn't I run out of fuel and crash? This is weird. Maybe the Germans have set up a fake Seine river and a fake Paris to fool Allied pilots into landing there. Wouldn't it be easier to just shoot me down? Wouldn't we have seen them building another Eiffel Tower? How come no one else has seen

it? It's almost like I'm in another "zone" or something, sort of like a "twilight zone!"

Enough speculation. As crazy as it sounds, this must be real. There's just about enough time and fuel to set it down in Paris, or whatever that is, and figure it out from there. I can always get fuel there and then fly home, if it's really Paris. Right at 8,000 feet now, and I can begin to make out the base of the tower. Fuel's about to go, but that's okay because I can coast in from here.

Well, they told me this was a reconnaissance mission, and to expect the unexpected. Somehow I don't think this is what they had in mind. What happened to all that real estate I covered? Did it just disappear? They told me war was hell, they didn't tell me it was strange. Down to 5,000 feet now. I might have to take off a few more clicks of power to land on this side of the tower. In fact, I can turn off the engine and glide from here. Very strange how it came up EXACTLY in the center of my field of vision after all that flying. Coincidence or what?

Hmmm, looks like I'm going to touch down just past the tower after all. Still had a touch of fuel left, too. No problem, there's actually more room here in this park. Back at the tower there's a bunch of people wondering who's the strange American pilot. I could have told them it was me. Time enough to figure it all out over a glass of wine, just to steady the nerves, if I ever do figure it out. And what do I tell them back at the base?...

Spad Note: I have no explanation for what occurred in this episode. I am quite careful to use the "5" key after using the "M" key, so that I don't end up somewhere other than where I want to be. I am reasonably sure that this may be some sort of "hole" in the graphic pattern of Spad XIII. It may have something to do with the perspective lines disappearing above 18,000 feet, but then again maybe not. Does this occur every time you go above a certain altitude? From a specific place? Do you always end up facing West and at the Seine River? Or could you end up at one of the airfields or villages? Or somewhere not on the map at all? It may come as a matter of some disappointment that I'm not telling, but the point of this series is for YOU to get some hands-on experience with Spad. I will tell you that I have tried flying off the end of the map in the manual at lower altitudes, and nothing happened except that I eventually ran out of gas - until this time. So, the next time you have time, take off and try it out. You might be surprised. Unfortunately, my "Snoopy encounter" was only a hallucination (this time), but who knows, strange things can happen, so be observant out there!

Library News

What new software is in the library ? I am glad you have asked that question of me. The answer is ten new additions to the library. The additions are the Contest 89 disk which has two winning disks and one losing disk that will sell for $3.00 each till the end of the year. The other disks are

EASY ANSI, RAM COPIERS, REMIND ME, and a four disk set called TI PRINT SHOP . These last disk are fairware.

EASY-ANSI $2.00

This fairware program is distributed by INDEXED DIGITAL RESEARCH of Chicago , Illinois.

The disk comes with the program and docs. The docs are about 7 pages long. The docs also contain both Bank-switched keyboard map and the IBM-set2 map. It contains instructions on how to load the program under Editor Assembler Load option 3. Also it can be installed on a Ram Disk.

This program has a character editior for the TI 99/4A computer. The features included are a screen editor for 32 or 40 column, edits or creates CHARA1 files, converts CHARA1 files to a form usable by BASIC, creates CHARA1 files with a full 256 characters and creates 4 or 6 sector CHARA1 files.

This is a nice program for customing the CHARA1 files for customized look.

REMIND ME $2.00

This is a fairware program distributed by John Johnson . It contains two versions. A regular one and one that can be run out of Super- cart.

This program helps you keep track of appointments, events and other items that you will be doing during the month or even during the year.

The files contained on the disk are CHARA1 file, load, REMIND and REMIND-SC. It can be loaded by EA5 or similar loader to load REMIND or REMIND-SC. Also other loaders that can be used are TI-WRITER, FUNLWEB, MENU, BOOT, EXEC on 9640 or any extended Basic loader.

This is a nice fairware program that helps you keep track of your busy schedule.

TI PRINT SHOP $6.00

This fairware is a four disk set. This version of the program is an updated version. Included in the set are program and docs disk and 3 disk on graphics.

This version has the following improvements which are :
1) improvlements in most processing speed except in screen display and instances file output.

2) graphics print have higher density for darker images.
3) mailing labels added
4) capability of printing on inside of greetin type cards
5) input can be in either upper or lower case and when require converted to upper case
6) adding graphics files
7) smaller side by side images can be printed by heat transfer
8) special characters added to font file
9) user type line can be printed on posters
10) micro-justification of MSG and header lines on card, heat and poster functions added
11) 15 characters on card msg
12) 30 character on sign msg

These improvements have made TI Print Shop a much better program.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS

by James Brooks

For the benefit of all Members that receive this Newsletter, (the last one before THE FAIRE), below are the Billings for Dues!

Dues are to be as follows for One Year's Membership of 10 issues of the CHICAGO TImes, Newsletter of the Chicago Ti-99/4A Users Group.

All renewals made between Sept 1, and Dec 31 can pay IN PERSON ONLY (at a meeting or at the Faire)--$18.00 per 10 issue year by Mail All members within the USA:-----$21.00 per 10 issue year by Mail All members outside the USA:----$24.00 per 10 issue year by Mail (extra postage for overseas mailing cost $3.00 per year) LIBRARY CATALOGS WILL BE SOLD FOR $2.00 All First time members will receive a ONE TIME ONLY PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: 1. A USERS GROUP DEMO DISK
2. A USERS GROUP LIBRARY CATALOG
3. AN APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE BULLETIN BOARD AND GETTING A PASSWORD
Late renewals (between February 1, and August 15, the cutoff date for labels, will receive back issues (subject to availability as we do run out and cannot get reprints). Renewals from August 16 to Dec 31, will not receive any back issues but gain the NEWSLETTERS for the rest of the year (October, November December) and the 10 ISSUES of the following year.

Now everyone is getting ready for THE FAIRE of 1989. This will be the seventh FAIRE put on by the Chicago Ti-99/4A Users Group and it has promise of a Great Time in the Holiday Inn at Rolling Meadows. And don't forget the Pre-FAIRE Social, Friday, November 3rd, THE FAIRE on November 4th and continue in Milwaukee at the

Milwaukee FAIRE on November 5th.

Our membership wants to get the old SIG's going again to help out some of our Old and New Members amd we would like volunteer's from the more experienced Members to conduct these SIG's.

There is still a lot of Fairware and Freeware out there and I would encourage all users to donate to the Authors. If we stop making donations, the Freeware and Fairware will stop and then as you know, Commercial Software can cost$$$$$$, so lets keep those donations going to the Authors. Most of the Authors address's are included with the Freeware and if they change their address, they must file a change of address with the Post Office for forewarding of their mail. If the Author is not a member of the CTIUG, we do not know his address other than what is given on the Freeware. (Maybe some of those Non-CTIUG Members will join and then we will have their address's in our file. Just a suggestion,(HINT,HINT)

Well that's enough for this month. See you at the October 7th Meeting at the Hillside American Legion Hall. (The cost of the Hall is going up so we may have to find another place if the cost is deemed too high for our Group, so look around).

TIME TO RENEW RENEW RENEW TIME TO RENEW RENEW RENEW TIME TO RENEW

P.S.We expect some fine things at this Great Faire!

PROGRAM UPDATE...

This is from Ollie Hebert. "I have an update to my program on page 34 of the May TImes. Some programs (such as EZ-Keys Plus) redefine the character set with descenders. The following change will 'test' the "?" and adjust accordingly:

"In statement 150, change CALL CHAR(64,SEG$(C$,3,14)) to CALL CHAR(64,SEG$("00"&C$,-4*(ASC(C$)=48)+1,16))"

If anyone wanted to contact Colin Cartwright, the writer of the fine article, Down the Sink Hole, you can contact him using the following information: ATTIC (Adelaide Texas Instruments Computer Club), c/o Fred Cugley (Coordinator), 26 Suffolk Avenue, Brahma Lodge S.A. 5109, AUSTRALIA.

1990 PROGRAMING CONTEST .

FOR THE TEXAS INSTRUMENT TI99/4A HOME COMPUTER

AND ,

FOR THE MYARC GENEVE / 9640.

The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP is having a programing contest.
And what happened is someone said that we should get it going early the next time. (ME !) Well,I got the contest to run the next time. Here is the run-down !
STARTS NOW . Last entry accepted on 04-01-1990 . JUDGED IN APRIL 1990 . WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY,1990 CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP MEETING .

PRIZES WILL BE ;

FIRST PRIZE = $100.00

SECOND PRIZE = $75.00

THIRD PRIZE = $50.00

FORTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL BE A COMPLETE COPY OF ALL ENTRIES ! (WOW !)

THINK ABOUT IT ! FORTH to TENTH PRIZES WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER THEN THE FIRST THREE PRIZES . NOW IF THAT AIN'T SOMETHING .
I'M GOING FOR MORE THEN 200 ENTRIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
IN ANY LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE USED, LOGO,ASSEMBLY,FORTH,BASIC, EXTENDED BASIC,c , P , G ,PLOTER , SUPER FORTH , SST , ASPIC , PASCAL ect. .
Did I miss any of them ? Any language that the computers can use, With or without any cartrage . (MINIMEM - TE-II - ADVENTURE - TUNNELS OF DOOM - SUPER CART) Well, If I can't review them, I'll get help. The reviews will be in the newsletter. All entries will be reviewed and commented on and numbered .
No matter how large or small any program is, it will be entered . Any age is acceptable . I do not want to know any ages .
(It would just make me look bad that a 7 year old kid can do better then I can.) In fact, My kid is better then I am in some programing.
Back to the programing contest !
Don't read the rest of this NEWSLETTER . As soon as you are done reading this artical, Go write a program ! Get started NOW .

When you get done with your program, Then read the rest of this newsletter .
All entries will become property of the CHICAGO'S USERS GROUP LIBRARY .And will become part of the library .

Programs should be coming in from all over the world.
AUSTRALIA , CHINA , SOUTH AMERICA , NORTH AMERICA , EUROPE AFRICA . There are programmers and users all over the world.

Any and all entries will be mailed to me at my home or to THE CHICAGO USERS GROUP . To my attition . OR , If you wish ; I have a 1200 baud MODEM . VOICE first !
I'LL GIVE ALL THAT INFORMATION AT THE END OF THIS.

Now just a word on getting you off your duff .
There are some people who tell me that I ain't got a chance of getting more then twenty programs . Well, I have more confidence in the people who still play and use our computers. Show them all that we are still alive , well and still loving out toy computers. There is no limit of how many entries you can put in. Send them in on DISK (S.S.S.D.) or TAPE . Or 1200 baud MODEM !

The CHICAGO'S TI99/4A USERS GROUP BBS PHONE NUMBER is 1-312-862-0182 or 1-708-862-0182 .
MY COMPUTER phone number is 1-312-755-0051 or 1-708-755-0051 .
There will be a change in the area code for some of the phones in the CHICAGO area starting on NOVEMBER 1 , 1989 .
O K , That is in case that you want to modem your program in.

Now so that you can mail or bring it in ;

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI
3607 WALLACE
STEGER,ILLINOIS
60475 U.S.A.
Att . PROGRAMING CONTEST

OR

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago,Ill. 60657 U.S.A.
#46
att. CONTEST

P.S. I think this is a chance for you to win a good mess of programs for yourself or for your USERS GROUP.

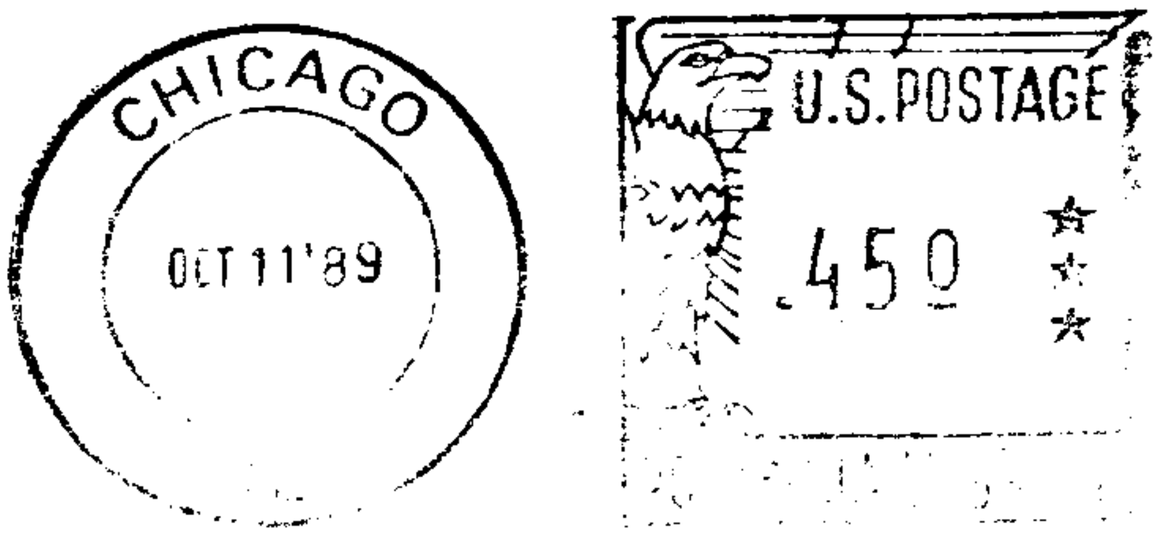
Thanks all !

TONY ZLOTORZYNSKI #46 PROGAMING CONTEST CHAIRMAN.

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, Ill. 60657

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested



EDITOR'S NOTES. . .

I have something very serious to start off with this month. It has to do with the amount of outside calls I get at work. I must ask everyone to refrain from calling me there. My work load has increased considerably. My new responsibilities don't allow as much free time as I once had. Sometimes your timing is very poor. I get very nasty looks when I'm meeting with the Regional Director or Manager and get an outside call. It's even worst when I'm in a very bad Open Heart case and someone calls. If looks could kill, some surgeon would have done me in a long time ago. Please, I know I'm hard to get ahold of, but don't call me at work any more. Many of you have found over the past few weeks that I either wouldn't or couldn't take your calls. I'm sorry but some nights I don't have time to spend yacking on the phone. Please leave your messages on my recorder.

Next month I'm attending a seminar in Boston from Oct. 22nd till the 27th. Cut off date as usually will be the 15th of the month. I will not be able to extend the deadline. I need time to do my thing with the formatting and layout. Be sure to get your articles in early. It'll be very important to get your FAIRE articles in. Anyone missing the 11/15 deadline will loose out. Anyone unable to get on the group's board, let me know. I'll make arrangements to upload to my computer. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.